traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). Therefore, the

handling of bats for trading purposes poses a

considerable risk of transmitting zoonotic CoV

epidemics (139).

Due to the possible role played by farm and wild

animals in SARS-CoV-2 infection, the WHO, in

their novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation report,

recommended the avoidance of unprotected contact

with both farm and wild animals (25). The live-

animal markets, like the one in Guangdong, China,

provides a setting for animal coronaviruses to

amplify and to be transmitted to new hosts, like

humans (78). Such markets can be considered a

critical place for the origin of novel zoonotic

diseases and have enormous public health

significance in the event of an outbreak. Bats are the

reservoirs for several viruses; hence, the role of bats

in the present outbreak cannot be ruled out (140). In

a qualitative study conducted for evaluating the

zoonotic risk factors among rural communities of

southern China, the frequent human-animal

interactions along with the low levels of

environmental biosecurity were identified as

significant risks for the emergence of zoonotic

disease in local communities (141, 142).

The comprehensive sequence analysis of the